

SAYS CONFERENCE

AVOIDED A TRIAL

The Reverend Columbus Bradford
Declares He Was Willing to

Answer Heresy Charge.

HE CRITICISES THE DECISION.

Author of "Birth, a New Chance,"
Considers the Action of Conference Equivalent to a
Backdown.

The Reverend Columbus Bradford, against whom a charge of heresy was placed, a

whom a charge of bribery was placed at the recent meeting of the Lebanon District Conference at Freeburg, Ill., has given out a signed statement of conference proceedings. The occasion for proposing a trial was Mr. Bradford's book entitled, "Birth of a New Chance," which had been assigned to

In his report as to the character of the book published, Doctor Van Cleave said it

"The Reverend Columbus Bradford teach-

REVEREND COLUMBUS BRADFORD,
Who declares the Methodist Conference
avoided trying him on the charge of
heresy.

es that death is not the result of sin, that infants dying in infancy are not saved; that the finally impenitent will suffer annihilation in the sense of losing all conscious existence; that a new probation is extended to all soon after death; that Christ raised himself from the dead by auto-suggestion; that the resurrection of certain portions of

the scriptures is to be rejected, at least so far as they do not agree with the theory of the book; that the second coming of Christ has passed; that judgment is now in progress, and that the death of Christ is not sufficient atonement for our sins."

In closing his statement before the conference, Doctor Van Cleave said: "I am ut-

terly unable to understand how any man can entertain such beliefs, at the same time claim the authority and protection of the Methodist Church and be honest and conscientious. I rather think I ought to have charged him with lying, for he certainly falsified in taking his ordination vow. A man who can disseminate such teachings after taking that vow has certainly for-

gotten what intellectual honesty is, or any other honesty. Every one of the charges preferred involves the violation of the ordination vows."

Presiding Elder Woodley ruled that under the present law of the church Mr. Bradford was not under the jurisdiction of the conference, and so passed the matter of trial

The Lebanon District Conference at Freeburg avoided a heresy trial by denying jurisdiction over the supposed heretic. The 1900 Methodist Discipline, paragraph 138, section 2, requires a local preacher who is appointed to a pastoral by a Presiding Elder to bring a letter from his former pastor or Presiding Elder and present it

to the first quarterly conference, and was named his church and quarterly conference membership at the church where he is pastor. I brought him a letter from my Minnesota Presiding Elder here and gave it to Presiding Elder Woodie, who then appointed me to the Oakville charge. He informed it and returned it to me without instructions. He wrote on the back of it, "Possibly you desire this paper," which indicates that he, as well as I, had failed to note the new law which

required that such a letter be given in a quarterly conference. I considered my membership fully transferred, and did not present my letter to the first quarterly conference in open meeting, but it was kept with the papers and records belonging to the quarterly conference as long as I remained pastor there. After my dismissal Presiding Elder Woodley acknowledged in the presence of twelve men that my membership was still at Oakville. This was also acknowledged by the church members.

called in on the evening of the same day, April 8, in Mr. Woodley's own house in Lebanon, Tenn. He finally advised that the Presiding Elder's action in depriving me from my pastorate be incorporated, and that I be brought to trial for heresy at the approaching District Conference at Freeburg.

be engaged, and was ready for trial when notified by Elder Woodley on May 8, that because I had failed to present my Minnesota letter to the quarterly conference he could not recognize me as a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church within the bounds of the Lebanon District. I reminded him of my having given said letter to him, and he acknowledged having had it, but still refused to change his decision, and said he would not entertain any charges against me at

the Freiburg conference. As I had no appeal immediately available, and to make such appeal would look like clamoring for the privilege of being tried for heresy, I called on my attorneys and did not report at the conference for trial. I wrote Mr. Woodley at Freiburg the day before the conference met that I wished to be understood as neither seeking nor shunning a heresy trial, but simply wanted my record as a minister kept clear; that when the question of

This refusal, on the small technical ground above noted, to bring me to trial for heresy.

after taking the trouble to prepare charges. I regard as a conclusion on the part of the conference either that there was, after all, no just cause for a heresy trial, or that it would be unprofitable, whatever the issue, in either case it is equivalent to a backdown and a withdrawal of charges, leaving my ministerial standing unimpaired.

DAILY INSPECTION PLANNED.
Director of Works Has Purchased
Team and Buggy.

Director of Works, Taylor will make a daily investigation of the construction work on the site, as soon as the span of black horses and wagon, purchased, through the Supplies Department, have been delivered to him.

"At present I am unable to visit the site as often and as freely as I desire" said Mr. Taylor, in speaking of his preparations for minute inspection of the work. "To get the best results, I ought to visit all the places where great works are in progress, at least once a day, to see that the contractors have an adequate force of men at work and that

"More important than this even is the inspection of the models for the buildings which are constantly being executed at the two big staff shops on the site. It is necessary that all these models, at least those models which involve artistic judgment, should come under the eye of the architect

mening pass under the eye of the law or his representative. At present I am unable to view them before the clay of the model is seamed with cracks."

Teachers Selected at Grayville.
REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Grayville, Ill., May 18.—The Board of Education has selected the following teachers for the ensuing year: Principal, R. W. Jennings; second intermediate, Miss Helen Coles; first intermediate, Miss Kate Hoelsie; second primary, Miss Carrie Rees; first primary, Miss Emma Brechner.